MALT : A MALloc Tracker

A memory profiling tool

THE QUESTION

Goal

- We have **profiling tool** for **timing** (eg. Valgrind or vtune)
- But for **memory usage** ?
- Memory can be an issue :
  - Failed to run (or swap) due to **lack of memory resource**.
  - **Performance impact** of memory management functions
- Three main questions :
  - How to reduce **memory footprint** ?
  - How to improve overhead of **memory management** ?
  - How to improve **memory usage** ?

Some issue examples

- We want to help searching :
  - **Where** memory is allocated.
  - **Properties** of allocated chunks.
  - **Bad** allocation **patterns** for performance.
  - **Leaks**
  - **Global variables** (TLS)

```
1   __thread Int gblVar[SIZE];
2   int * func(int size)
3   {
4                   child_func_with_allocs();
5                   void * ptr = new char[size];
6                   double* ret = new double[size*size*size];
7                   for (.....)
9                   {
10                          double* buffer = new double[size];
11                          //short and quick do stuff
12                          delete [] buffer;
13                  }
14                  return ret;
15  }
```

Global variables and TLS

Indirect allocations

Leak

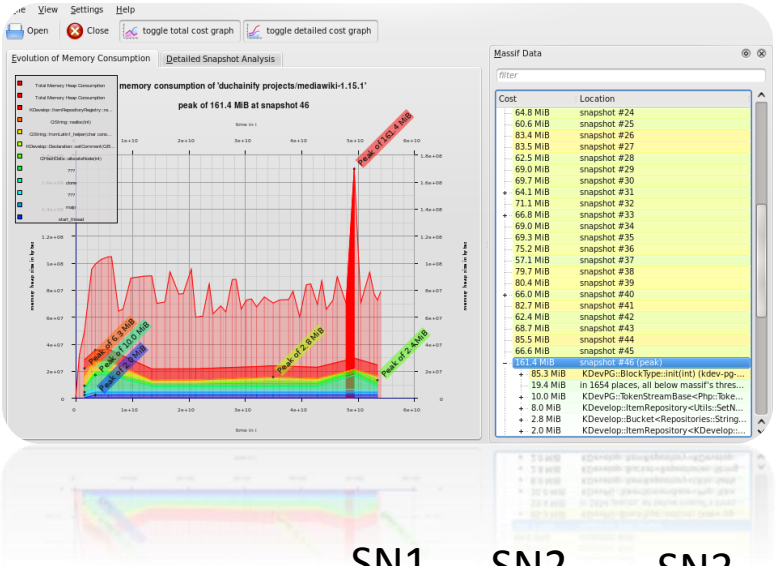
Might lead to swap for large size

Short life allocations

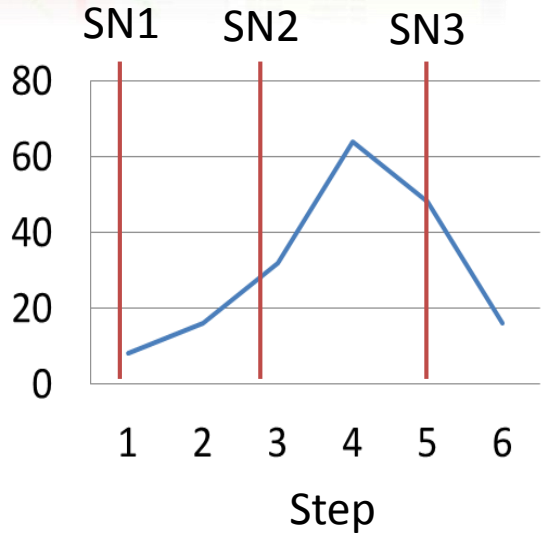
EXISTING TOOLS

Existing tools

- **Valgrind - massif :**
  - Take **snapshots** over time.
  - **Link memory** size to **functions**
  - **Peak** might **not be captured**.
  - Might **miss short live** allocations
  - GUI not adequate for large code
  - Slow, not parallel.

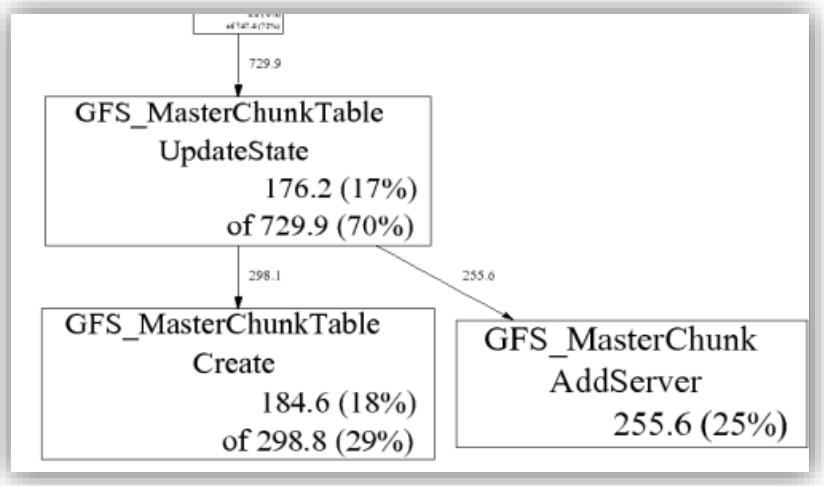


- **Valgrind - memcheck :**
  - Misuse of memory functions (malloc/new/free….)
  - Leak detection
  - Invalid accesses
  - Slow, not parallel.



Existing tools

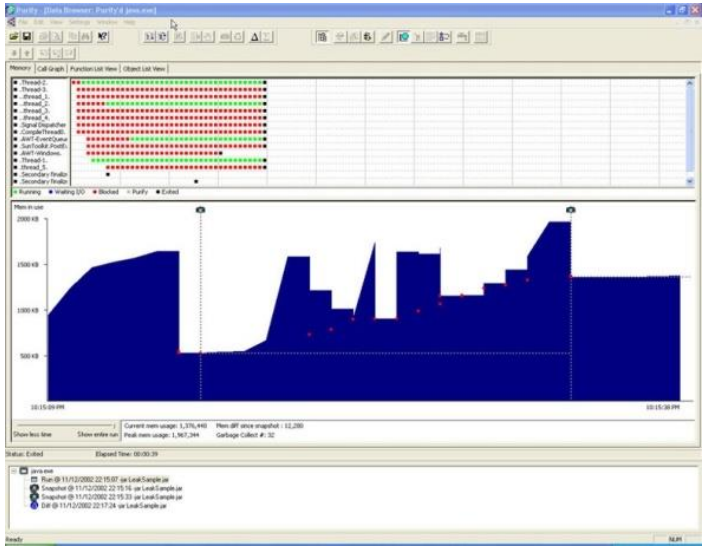
- **Google heap profiler (tcmalloc):**
  - Small overhead.
  - Only provide snapshots of allocated memory per stacks.
  - Peak might not be captured.
  - No binary or source instrumentation.
  - Output is not clear…
  - Lack of a real GUI to use it.

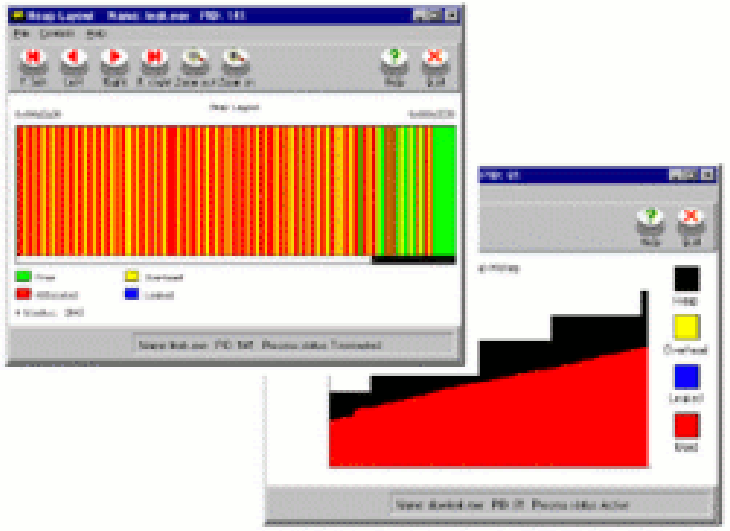



```
% pprof gfs_master profile.0100.heap
  255.6  24.7%  24.7%   255.6  24.7% GFS_MasterChunk::AddServer
  184.6  17.8%  42.5%   298.8  28.8% GFS_MasterChunkTable::Create
  176.2  17.0%  59.5%   729.9  70.5% GFS_MasterChunkTable::UpdateState
  169.8  16.4%  75.9%   169.8  16.4% PendingClone::PendingClone
   76.3   7.4%  83.3%    76.3   7.4% __default_alloc_template::_S_chunk_alloc
   49.5   4.8%  88.0%    49.5   4.8% hashtable::resize
```

Existing tools

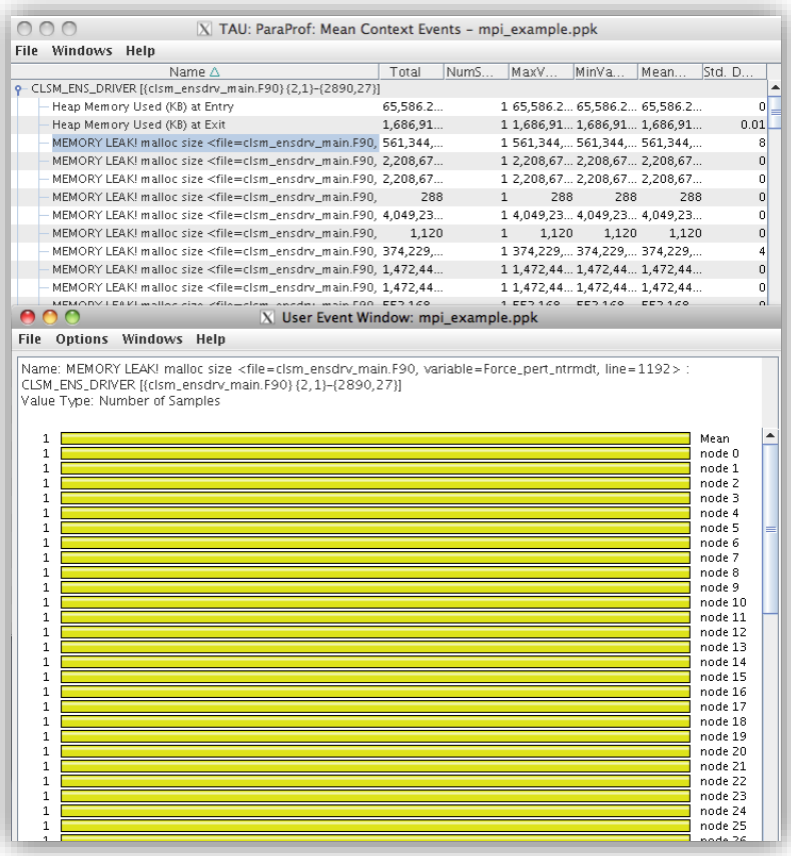
- **IBM Purify++ / Parasoft Insure++**
  - Commercial
  - Leak detection, access checking, memory debugging tools.
  - Use binary or source instrumentation.
  - Windows / Redhat
  - Quite old GUI





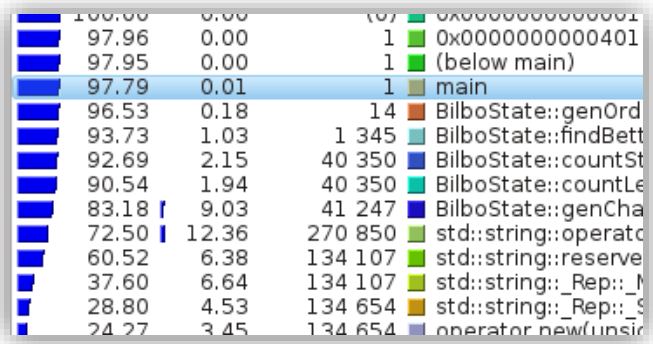
Existing tools

- **TAU memory profiler**
  - Provide profiles
  - Follow stacks
  - Track leaks
  - Parallel, done for HPC/MPI
  - Lack easy matching with sources

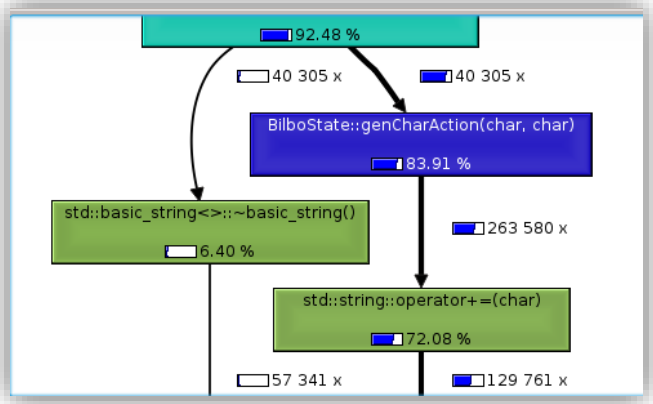


What is good in kcachgrind

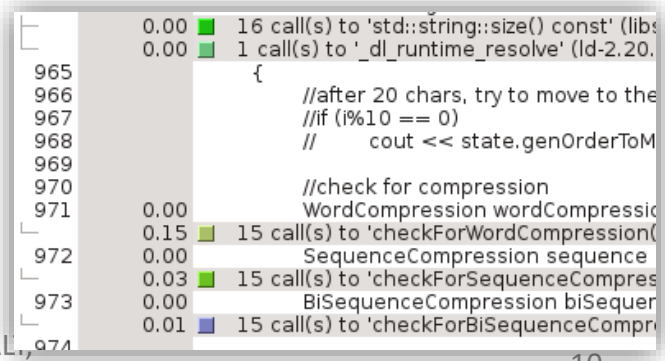
- List of **functions** with **exclusive/inclusive** costs



- Nice **call tree**



- **Annotated** sources



WHERE I GO

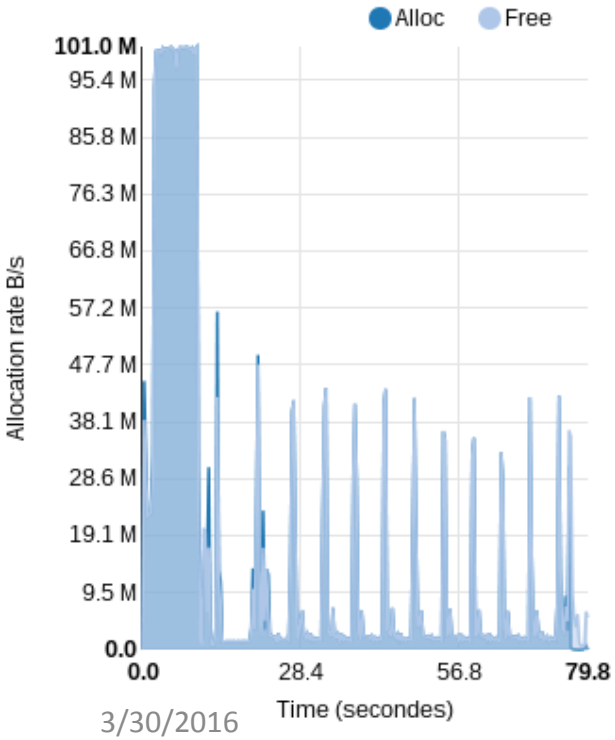
What I want to provide

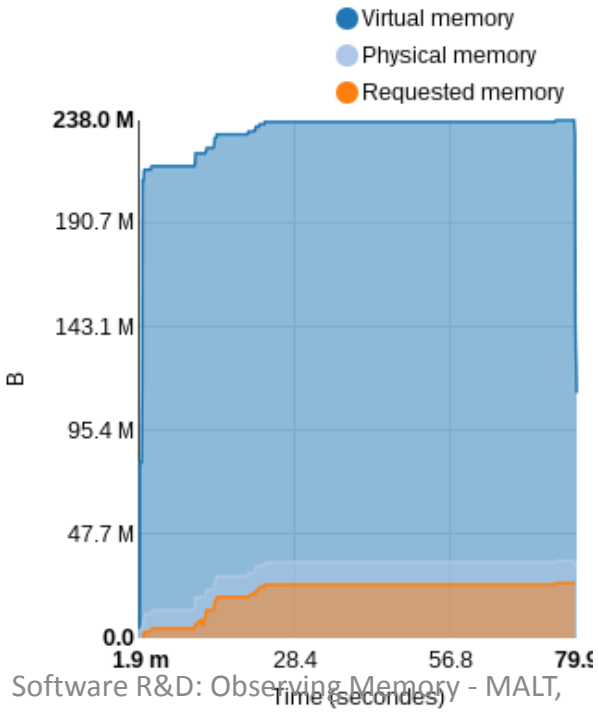
- Same **approach** than **valgrind/kcachgind**
- **Mapped** allocations on **sources lines**
- For **memory resource usage** :
  - Memory **leaks** (malloc without free)
  - **Peak** and **total** allocated **memory**
- For **performance** :
  - Allocation **count**
  - Allocation **sizes** (min/mean/max)
  - Chunk **lifetime** (min/mean/max)

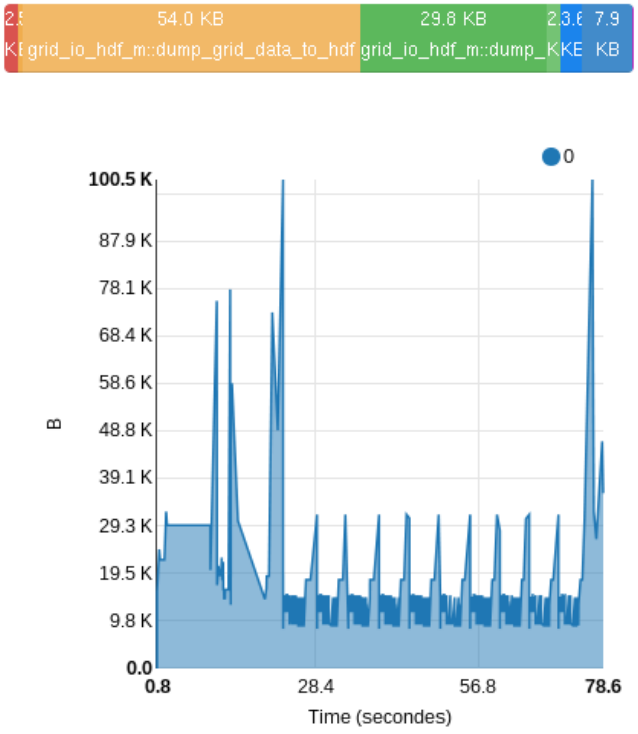
Temporal metrics

- **Profile over time** :
  - Allocation **rate**
  - **Physical / Virtual / Requested** memory
  - **Stack size** for each **thread** (require function instrumentation)

- **Example on YALES2 with gfortran** :

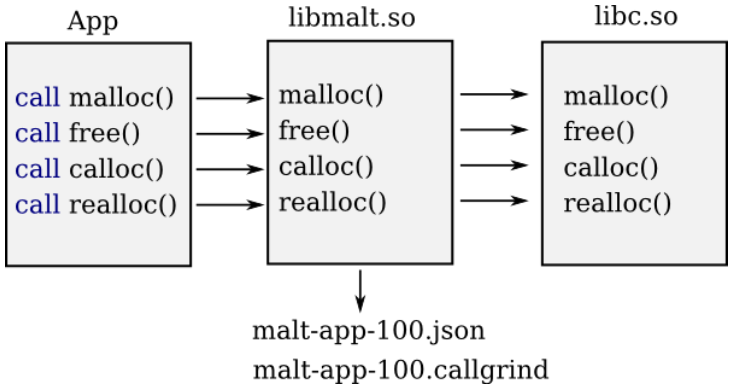






How it works

- Use LD_PRELOAD to intercept malloc/free/…



- Profile allocations on call stacks
- Generate JSON output file
- Build profile so size is limited by call tree

Tracking stacks

- Two approach implemented : backtrace and instrumentation

- Backtrace (default) :
  - No change on binary or sources.
  - Function from glibc
  - Manage all dynamic libraries
  - No impact on compute
  - Slow on x86_64 due to use of libunwind.
  - Slow for large number of calls (~>10M)

- Instrumentation :
  - Need source recompilation (available) : *-finstrument-function*
  - Or tools for binary instrumentation : MAQAO / Pintool (experimental)
  - Impact performance of compute only functioans
  - Faster for really large number of calls to malloc
  - Only provide stacks for the instrumented sources/binaries

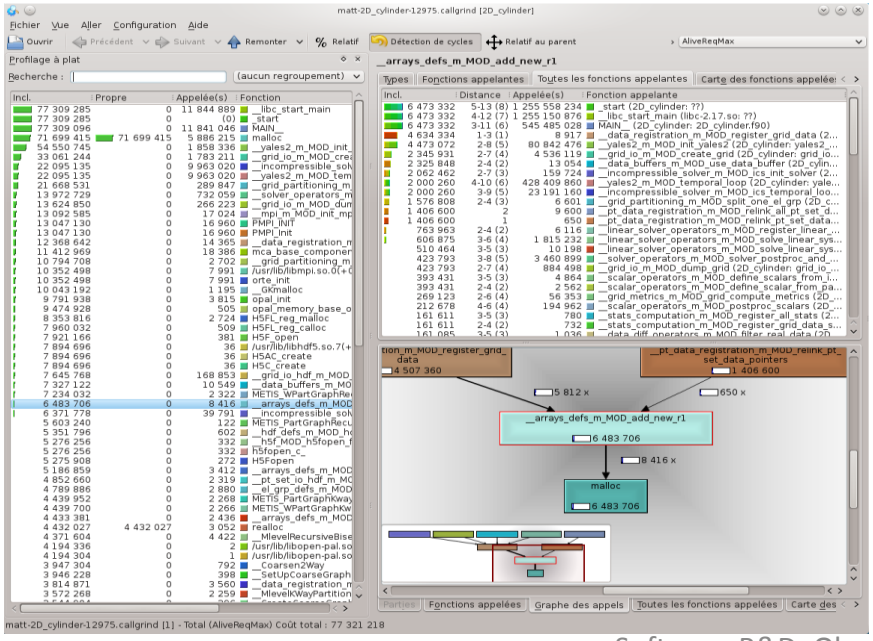
Global output

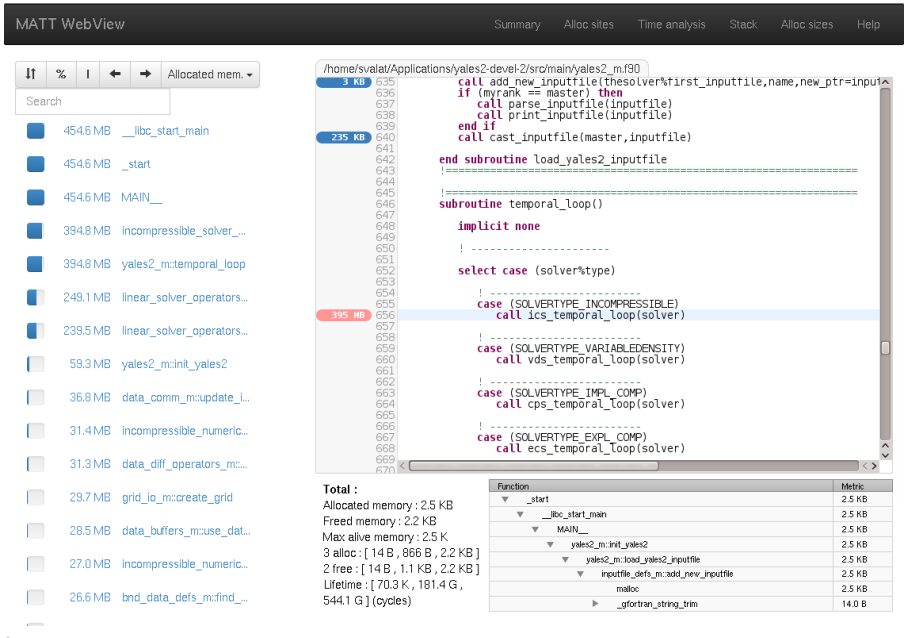
Callgrind compatibiltiy

- Can use kcachgrind
- Might be usefull for some users, cannot provide all metrics.

Own web view

- Get all metrics
- Web technology (NodeJS, D3JS, Jquery, AngularJS)
- Easier for remote usage
- Can be used for shared working





What is missing to kcachegrind

- Display **human readable** units
  - You prefer **15728640** of **15MB** ?
  - I want to **compare to what I expect**.
- Cannot handle **non sum cumulative metrics**
  - **Inclusive** costs **only rely** on **+ operator**
  - Some mem. metrics **requires max/min** (eg. local peaks, lifetime, sizes)
- No way to express **time profiles**
- No way to express **parameter distributions** (eg. sizes).

SOME VIEWS

Global summary

EXECUTION TIME	PHYSICAL MEMORY PEAK	ALLOCATION COUNT	AVAILABLE PHYSICAL MEMORY
00:00:00.25	2.3 MB	379	4.1 Gb

Run description

Executable :	simple-case-finstr-linked
Commande :	`./simple-case-finstr-linked`
Tool :	matt-0.0.0
Host :	localhost
Date :	2014-11-26 22:40
Execution time :	00:00:00.25
Ticks frequency :	1.8 GHz

Global statistics

Show all details | Show help

Physical memory peak	2.3 MB
Virtual memory peak	103.7 MB
Requested memory peak	2.0 KB

Global summary

- Provide a small summary
- Provide some warnings

Show all details | Show help

Physical memory peak	66.7 MB
Virtual memory peak	158.1 MB
Requested memory peak	6.1 MB
Cumulated memory allocations	11.5 MB
Allocation count	172.2 K
Recycling ratio	1.9
Leaked memory	743.7 KB
Largest stack	0 B
Global variables	**10.0 MB** ⚠
TLS variables	48 B
Global variable count	**421.0 K** ⚠
Peak allocation rate	37.8 MB/s

Global summary : top 5 functions

- Summarize **top functions** for some metrics
- Points to check
- Examples on YALES2

Alloc count

Ratio	Allocs	Function
	911.9 K	data_comm_m::copy_int_comm_to_data
	896.4 K	data_comm_m::copy_data_to_int_comm
	853.2 K	data_comm_m::update_int_comm
	484.9 K	sponge_layer_m::calc_sponge_layer_mask
	296.0 K	incompressible_numerics_m::ics_diffuse_velocity_rk_4th

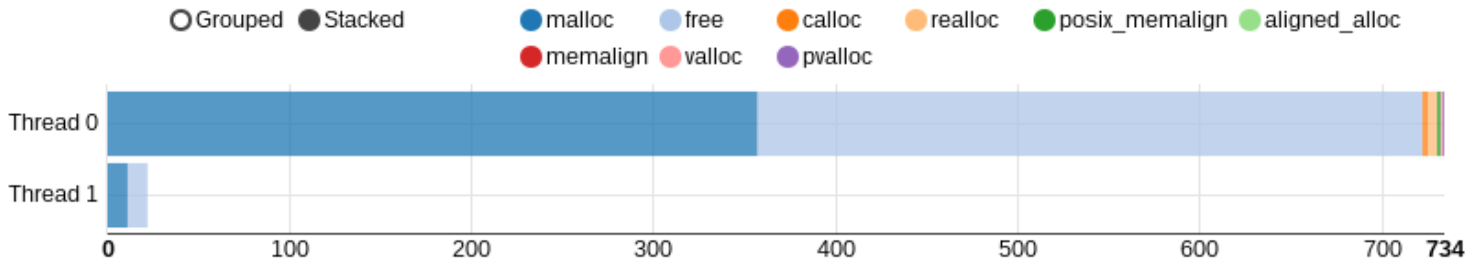
Allocated memory

Ratio	Allocs	Function
	202.4 MB	linear_solver_operators_m::solve_linear_system_deflated_pcg
	26.6 MB	bnd_data_defs_m::find_bnd_data
	21.8 MB	linear_solver_operators_m::solve_el_grp_pcg
	19.0 MB	data_comm_m::copy_int_comm_to_data
	18.1 MB	data_comm_m::update_int_comm

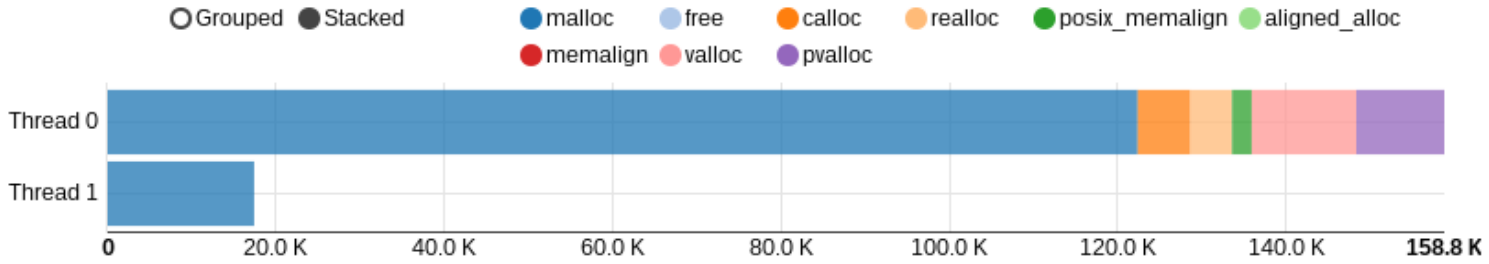
Peak memory

Per thread statistics

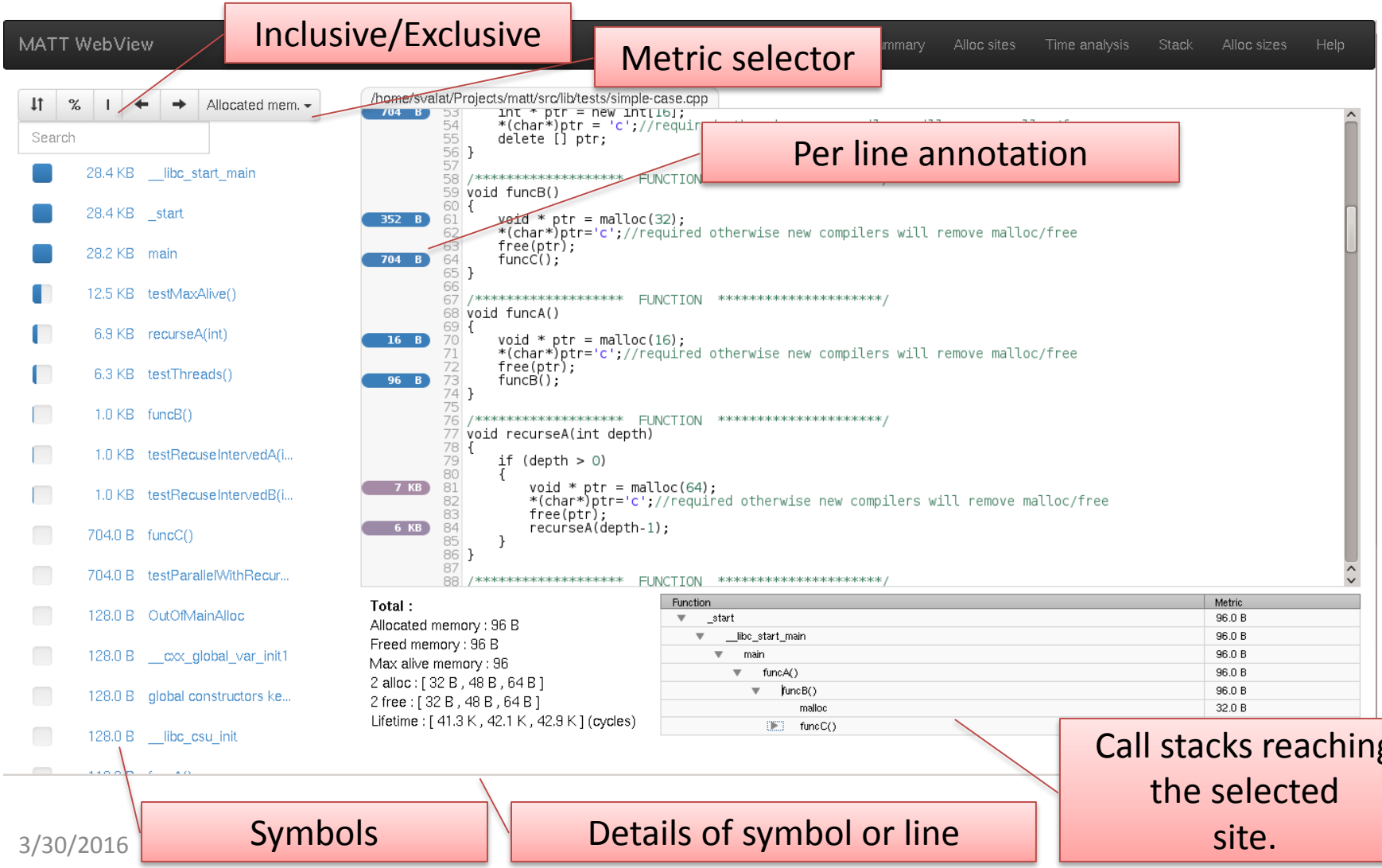
Call per thread



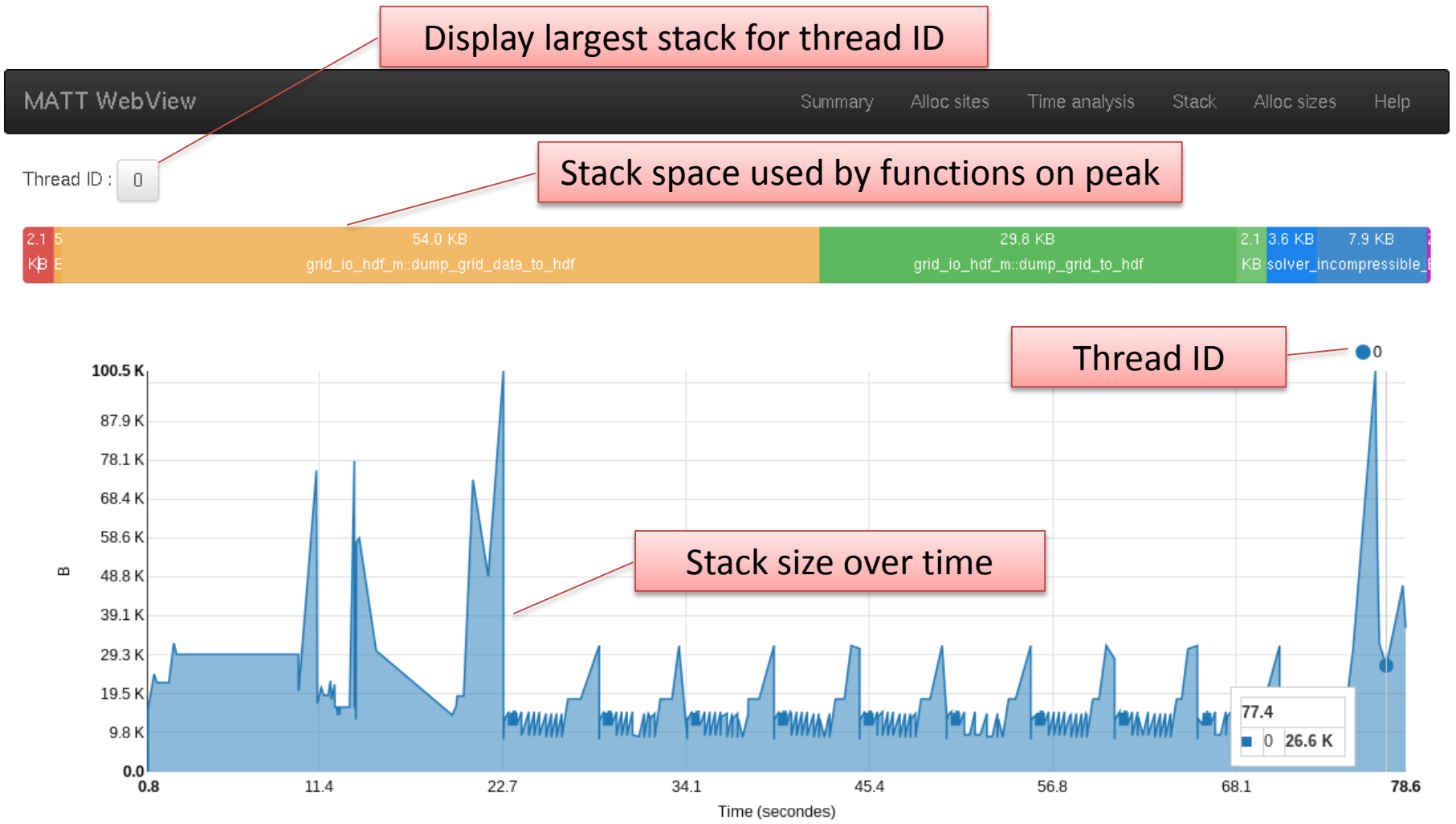
Time per thread



Source annotations

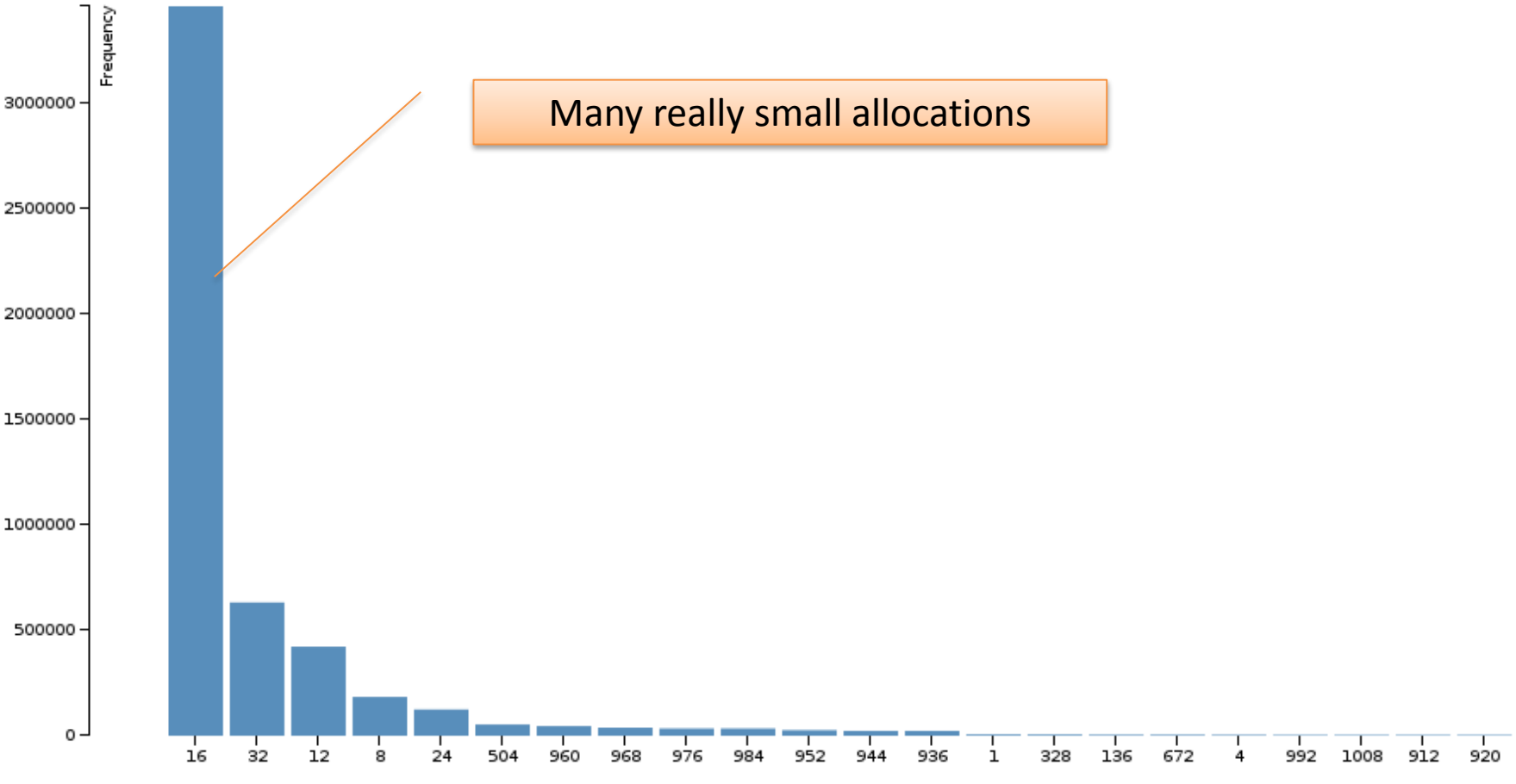


Tracking stack memory

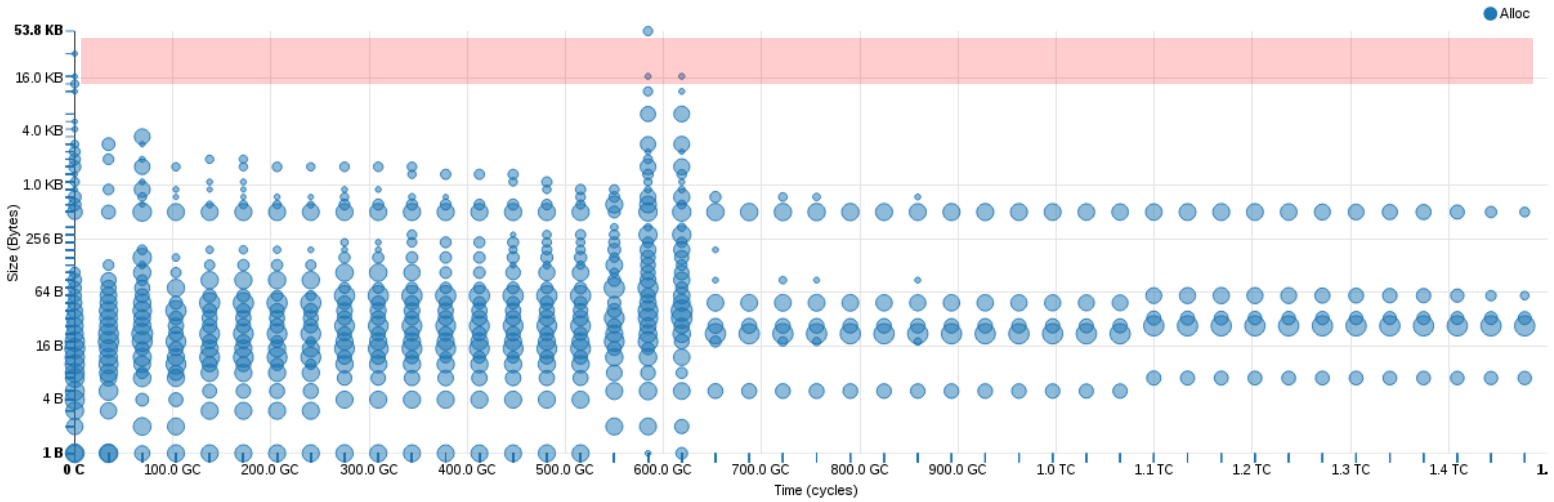


Chunk size distribution

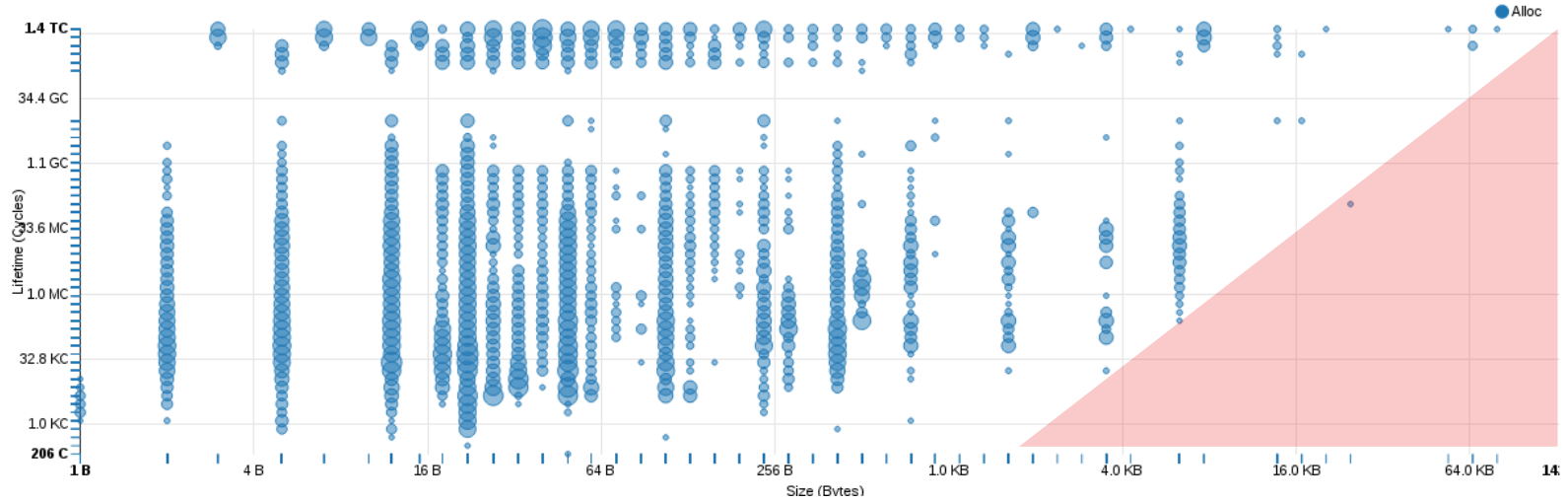
Example from YALES2 with gfortran issue



Size over time

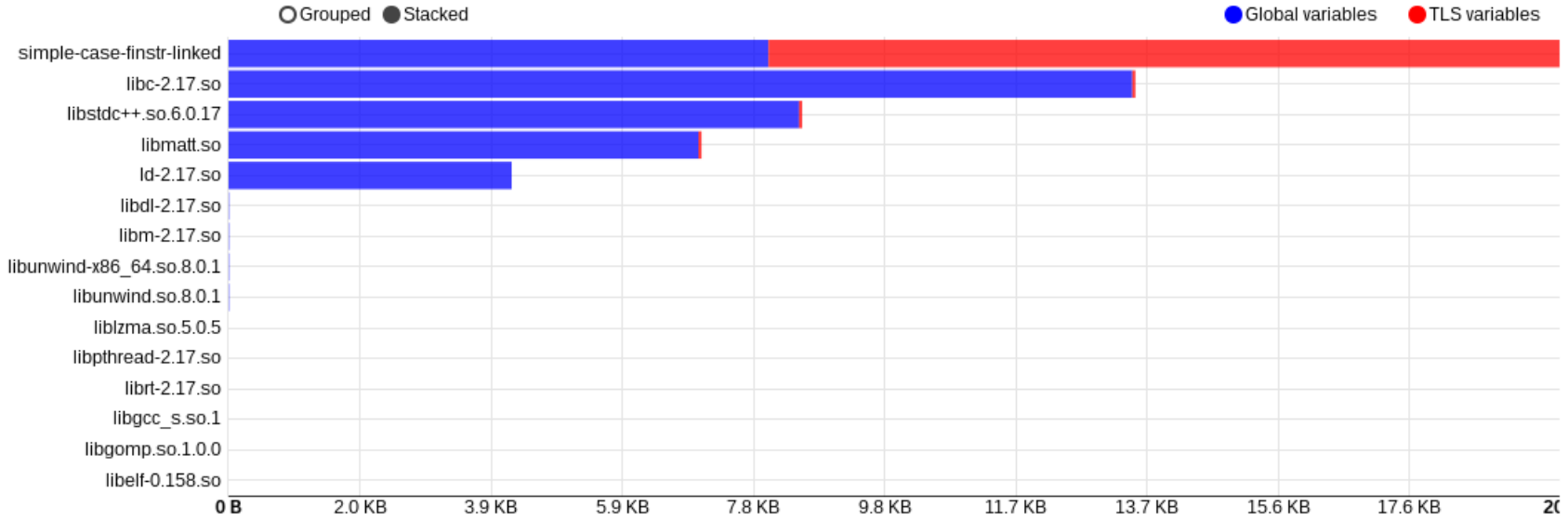


Lifetime over size

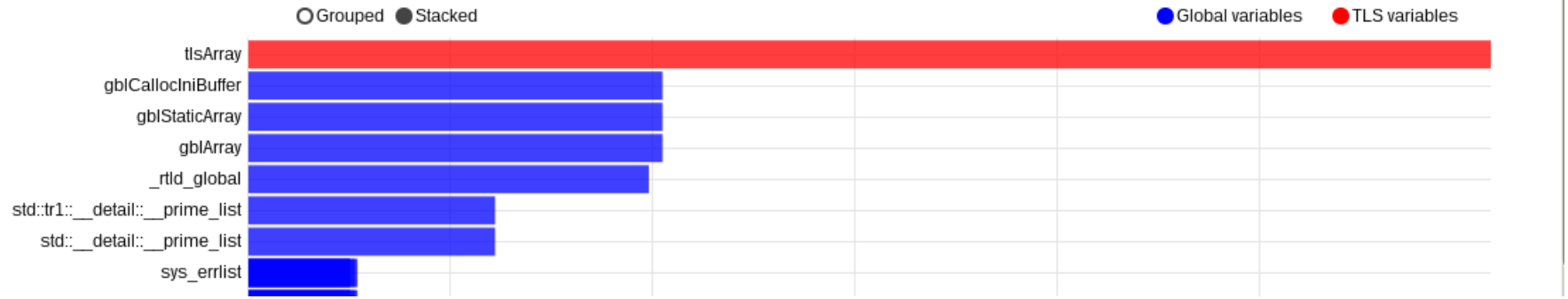


Global variables

Distribution over binaries



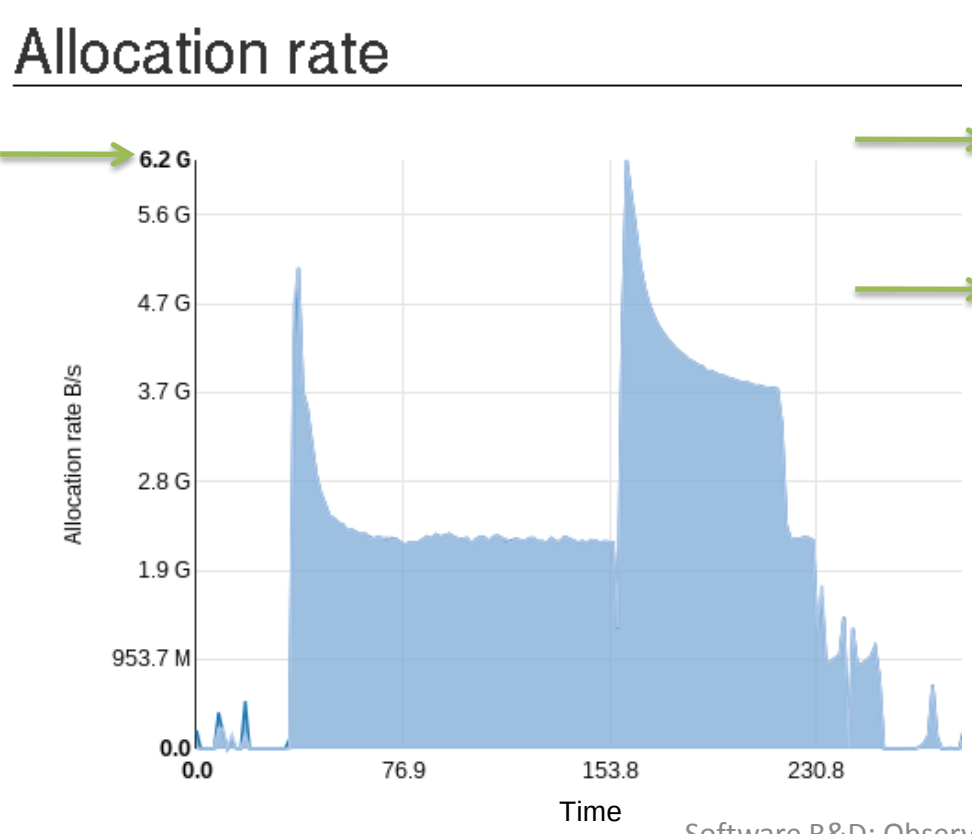
Distribution over variables



REAL CASES

Example on AVBP init phase

- Issue with **reallocation** on init :



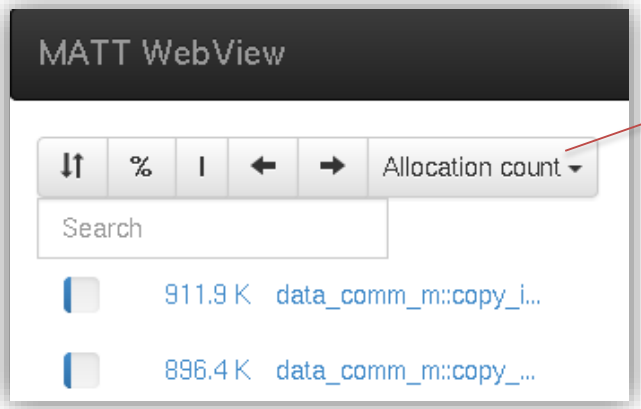

```
99        CALL assert(capacity==size(array),&
100             'array and capacity variable are not
101
102       IF (needed_size>capacity) THEN
103         IF (ALLOCATED ( temp) ) DEALLOCATE(temp)
104 57 GB  ALLOCATE ( temp(capacity))
105
106         DO i=1,capacity
107           temp(i)=array(i)
108         END DO
109
110         DEALLOCATE ( array)
111 57 GB  ALLOCATE ( array(new_cap))
112
113         DO i=1,capacity
114           array(i)=temp(i)
115         END DO
116
117         capacity=new_cap
118       END IF
119
```

Function
▶ _start

Total :
Allocated memory : 56.8 GB
Max alive memory : 135.7 M
3.5 K alloc : [16.0 KB , 16.3 MB , 33.7 MB]
Lifetime : [107.8 K , 26.7 M , 476.7 M] (cycles)
Own :
Allocated memory : 56.8 GB
Max alive memory : 135.7 M
3.5 K alloc : [16.0 KB , 16.3 MB , 33.7 MB]
Lifetime : [107.8 K , 26.7 M , 476.7 M] (cycles)

Allocatable arrays on YALES2

- Issue only occur with **gfortran**, ifort uses stack arrays.



Search intensive alloc functions

Huge number of allocation for a line programmer think it doesn't do any !

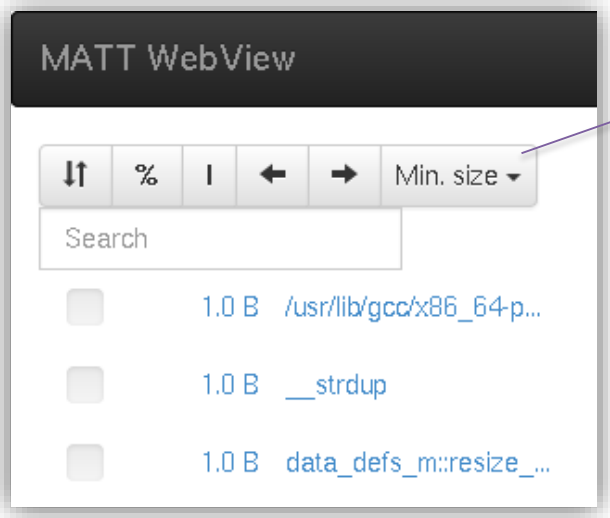
```
892                do i=1,nitem_el_grp
893                   el_grp_ind = el_grp_index2int_comm_index%val(1,i)
894                   int_comm_ind = el_grp_index2int_comm_index%val(2,i)
608 K  895            el_grp_r2%val(1:dim1,el_grp_ind) = int_comm_r2%val(1:dim1,int_comm_ind)
896                end do
```

Total :
Allocated memory : 9.5 MB
Freed memory : 9.5 MB
Max alive memory : 432
608.0 K alloc : [16 B , 16 B , 16 B]
608.0 K free : [16 B , 16 B , 16 B]
Lifetime : [24.5 K , 39.9 K , 37.8 M] (cycles)
Own:
Allocated memory : 9.5 MB

And mostly really small allocations !

We can found allocs of 1B !

- Examples on YALES 2, small allocations :



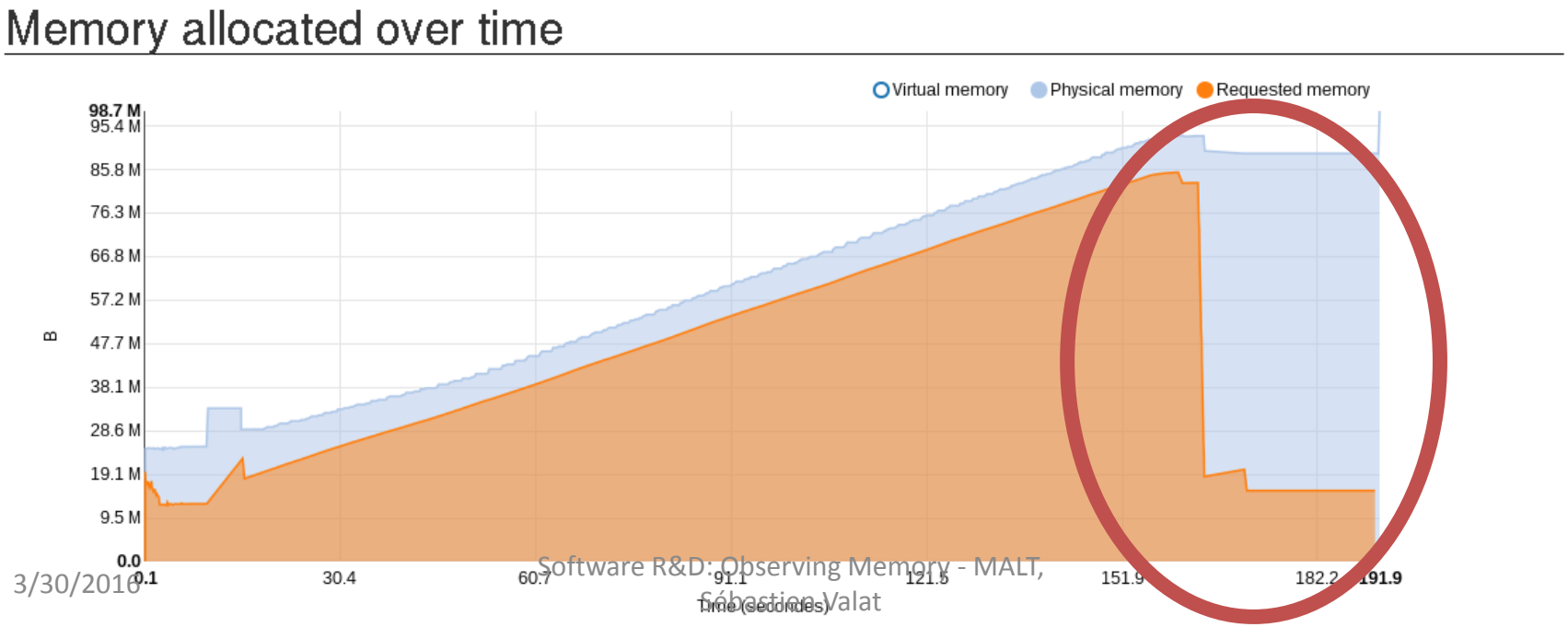
Search for the minimal chunk size.

Many codes produce allocations of 1B.
OK with moderation.

```
530                case (DATATYPE_REAL_NODE_VECTOR,DATATYPE_REAL_ELEM_VECTOR, &
531                      DATATYPE_REAL_FACE_VECTOR,DATATYPE_REAL_PAIR_VECTOR)
532                   if (associated(data_ptr%r2_ptrs)) then
533                      deallocate(data_ptr%r2_ptrs)
534                   end if
1 B 535               allocate(data_ptr%r2_ptrs(nel_grps))
536                   do n=1,nel_grps
537                      NULLIFY(data_ptr%r2_ptrs(n)%ptr)
538                   end do
```

Fragmentation issue

- Example from **Dassault mini-app** from Loïc Thébault and Eric Petit.
- **Fragmentation** can **prevent** from **returning physical pages** to OS
- **Solution** : **avoid interleaved** allocation of chunks with **different lifetime**.
- We observed with the **source annotation** that **most of them can be avoided**.



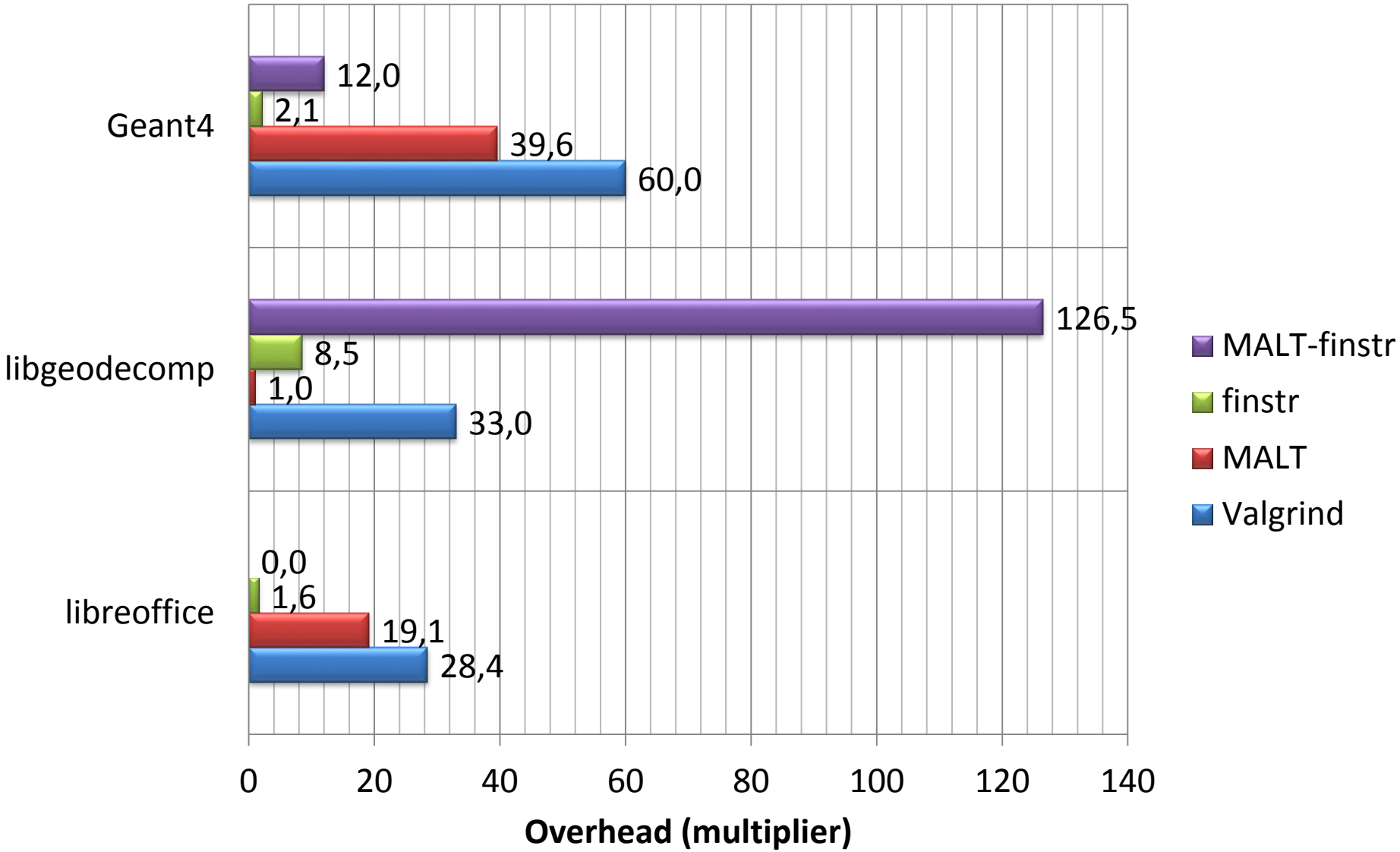
Missing reference on auto

- On one of my own code:

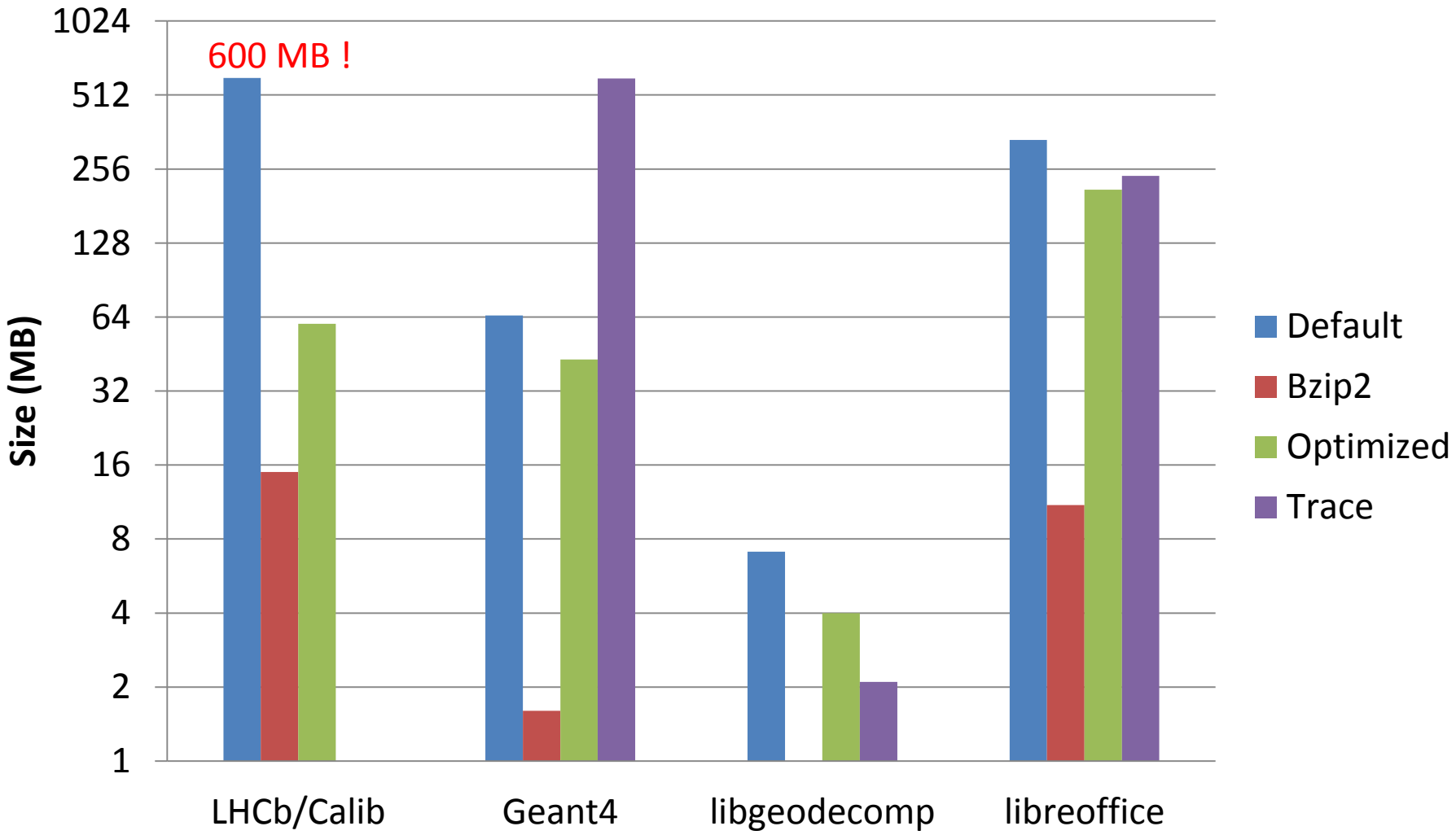
```
118         //search none empty
119         bool retry;
120         do {
121             retry = false;
354.7 K 122     for (auto entry : channels) {
123                 if (entry.acceptor()) {
124                     if (entry.channel->emptyTryLock(retry) == false) {
125                         ret = entry.channel;
126                         break;
127                     }
128                 }
129             }
```

- It was in a **active waiting loop**….
- **Divide by 300** the number of allocation

Overhead and profile size



Profile file size



USAGE & CONCLUSION

Usage

- Backtrace mode :

```
# Optionally recompile with debug flag  to get source lines :
cc –g …
# Run your program
${PREFIX}/bin/malt [--config=file.ini] YOUR_PRGM [OPTIONS]
```

- Function tracking with -finstrument-function :

```
# Recompile with instrumentation flag :
cc -finstrument-function –g …
# Run
${PREFIX}/bin/malt --stack=enter-exit [--config=file.ini] YOUR_PRGM [OPTIONS]
```

- Use the web view :

```
#Launch the server
malt-webserver -i  malt-{YOUR_PRGM}-{PID}.json
# Connect with your browser on http://localhost:8080
```

Conclusion

- Useful tool for tracking allocation patterns

- Interesting real cases :
  - YALES2 : allocations with gfortran
  - AVBP : large allocation rate
  - PAMPA : allocation larger than expected by programmer
  - Dassault mini-app : effect and source of fragmentation

- Future work :
  - Integrate traces into the view (already get all the backend stuff)
  - Add NUMA informations (at lease statistics about mappings)
  - Hope to get Open Source release soon

Thank you.

QUESTIONS ?

BACKUP

Ideas of improvement

- Add NUMA statistics
- Provide virtual/physical ratio
- Estimate page fault costs
- Exploit traces in GUI for deeper analysis
  - Alive allocations at a certain time
  - Fragmentation analysis
  - Time charts from call sites
  - Usage over threads for call sites

About global peak

- The tool maintain a **call stack tree**
- Profile **stats on leafs**
- On **new** global **peak**, need **to copy** each **local current contribution**
- Need to **walk over** the wall **tree** each time ?

- Do **lazy update** :
  - Keep track of **last local peakId** on each leaf
  - On leaf update, compare the **local peakId** and the global one
  - If not same : remember the old local contribution